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BOOK REVIEWS

Puzzles of the Past. An Introduction to Thinking About History. By Michael T. Isenberg. (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843), 1985. Index. P. 222. \$25.00 Cloth; \$15.00 Paper.

Michael T. Isenberg's *Puzzles of the Past* is an exceptional study of history as an intellectual adventure. Written in part out of the author's frustration in conveying the pleasures of history to college and university students, the volume stimulates a reconsideration of traditional approaches to the study of history while providing a coherent explanation for many of the nuances of the discipline.

Isenberg argues that "the ultimate importance of history . . . must lie in its immediate, personal relationship to the single, questing human mind" (p. 210). As a result, throughout the work the author consistently considers the importance of the individual in the historical process. He even concludes the work by advocating the creation of genealogical, regional, and local studies for their ability to foster a personal relationship between the subject and the researcher. Among other key aspects of the study of history examined in detail include the question of historical order, the impact of change, the importance of environmental and scientific determinism and other forces on the interpretation of history and on historical events, the role of politics, economics, and morality, and the meaning of history.

Throughout the text Isenberg weaves the views of prominent historians, as well as accounts of historical events and figures, to support his argument. By providing such personal examples he effectively reinforces his interpretation of history as an inquiring discipline that never ceases to uncover unanswered questions. *Puzzles of the Past* indeed reveals the wonders of history and should be highly recommended for anyone remotely interested in their own past in addition to that of the world around them.

Karen Guenther
University of Connecticut

Dictionary of American Military Biography. Roger J. Spiller, Editor. Three Volumes. (Greenwood Press, 88 Post Road West, Westport, CT 06881), 1984. Appendices. Index. P. 1368.

War is a macabre subject at best, but throughout history many popular heroes have led others into battle. But the editor of this three-volume dictionary wanted more than flowery tales of heroism on the battlefield. To achieve this, he and his associates sought advice from a number of military historians for the selection of persons to include.

One of the guidelines was to select subjects relating to all major events in United States military history from the British leaders of the colonial wars to the policy makers of the Vietnam era. Men and women were chosen not by their military rank or popularity with the American public but because of their significance to the making of American history.

Experts in the field of military history wrote the biographies. Each essay describes the individual's education and career and also interprets that person's role in the larger picture of the military scene in which they participated. A bibliography for each subject guides the reader to the best references available to the general public for further study.

Besides battle leaders, the book includes government officials whose policies affected wars and military educators who impacted military tactics. A refreshing addition is Texas' own Oveta Culp Hobby and a discussion of her organization of the Women's Army Corps in World War II. Also a number of Native Americans are among the entries. Helpful appendices to the book include a chronology of American military developments as well as explanations of military ranks and units.

An interesting use of the book is to read the biographies of several subjects of the same era, such as General William C. Westmoreland, General Creighton W. Abrams, Jr., and Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara from the Vietnam War. This reading provides more than just information on each person; it also provides a wider perspective of the war. In this the editor meets his goal to reflect the present state of military history in the United States.

Andrew L. Leath
Tyler, Texas

Letters of Roy Bedichek. By William A. Owens and Lyman Grant, Editors. (University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713), 1985. Index. P. 541. \$17.50.

Roy Bedichek had one of the finest minds that ever roamed the Texas range. As the son of frontier school teachers he was thoroughly grounded in classical literature and philosophy. He is best remembered for his work in natural history, a subject in which he was largely self-taught.

Bedichek did not publish his first book until he was past seventy, but for years he had honed his letter writing skills, using them to preserve his finest thoughts, to exchange information, ideas, and opinions, and to clinch arguments. He shared the view of Samuel Johnson, the English philosopher-lexicographer, who once said: "In a man's letters,

you know, madam, his soul lies naked." Bedichek himself preferred them to autobiography "because in letters you get the man off guard, no posing for posterity, no assumption of qualities he would like to have but hasn't, in short no idealization of himself." Of his own correspondence Bedichek asserted: "There I am just as I am." (P. 493).

Those who relish thought-provoking discourse will find this collection utterly addictive. Subjects include nature observations, education, literature, politics, and history, to name a few. The best teachers are frequently ones whose acquaintance we make in their books rather than in their classrooms. Bedichek's status as a great teacher is now affirmed once more.

The new volume is designed handsomely with a spartan yet graceful simplicity that would have pleased the author.

Al Lowman
Institute of Texan Cultures

Hometown Restaurants of Texas. By Mary Frances Beverley. (Gulf Printing Co., P.O. Box 2608, Houston, TX 77001), 1984. Index. P. 150. \$9.95.

Driving across Texas or a part thereof? Got a hankering for hot links? Or fried catfish? Or knockwurst? Or genuine home cooking? Got a thing about the Golden Arches?

Enter Ms. Beverley, in the best tradition of the Sixth U. S. Cavalry.

In this felicitously organized guide she records for the hungry traveller an even hundred among what she considers the best Texas restaurants owned and operated locally—and with a track record of consistently good food over time.

For convenience she has divided the state into seven sections, each with its own map for easy reference. Each restaurant—whether located in an old hotel, a home, a cotton gin, a grocery store or even a restaurant building—is discussed fully: hours, kind of food, accommodations for the handicapped, ambience, and even a bit of history. Many are pictured.

Almost all the restaurants are located in the smaller towns and cities. As the author comments in the preface (p. vii), they range "from family-style seating for country cooking, served in simple surroundings, as at Allen's in Sweetwater, to gourmet dining amid Victorian elegance at the Durham House in Waxahachie."

Readers of the *Journal* will be particularly interested in the East Texas and Gulf Coast areas, of course. Included for these areas are restaurants from Jefferson to Corpus Christi.

As with me, other East Texas readers will have favorite places to eat that are not included. But then, as the author explains, these are not the hundred "best" places. They simply are a hundred she has selected as representative of the honest-to-goodness cooking available to travellers and tourists alike.

The book is larger than an American Express card (and smaller than a breadbox), but, as someone has said, don't leave home without it.

Max S. Lale
Marshall, Texas

Every Sun That Rises: Wyatt Moore of Caddo Lake. Edited by Thad Sitton and James H. Conrad. (University of Texas Press, Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713), 1985. Photographs. Maps. Suggested Reading List of Caddo Lake. Index. P. 167.

Following an encounter with Wyatt Moore, the Caddo Lake Oral History Project of East Texas State University was begun. Known as an expert resource person about the twenty-three mile, 40,000-acre Caddo Lake, the second-largest natural lake in the South, Moore, who was born in 1901, has spent most of his over eighty years exploring every nook and cranny of the natural and human history of the lake. As a result of his experience, he has often been sought by many as a guide of the lake, including the editors of *National Geographic* magazine, and James A. Michener.

Since most of the history of the lake remains undocumented and exists only in an "oral" format, this book is a step in the right direction in recording Caddo Lake's rich heritage. But the bulk of the book centers on the man, Wyatt Moore, whose self-interview reviews his obvious talent for tale-telling. Many of his tales, of course, center on Caddo Lake. A final chapter provides instructions for building a Caddo "folk-boat," or the large, blunted flat-bottomed rowing "bateau," from wood.

Since Thad Sitton also wrote *Oral History: A Guide for Teachers (and Others)*, *Every Sun That Rises* should serve as a good model of what to do with oral accounts once they have been gathered. Anyone interested in oral history or in Caddo Lake should enjoy this book.

Daniel F. Rankin, Jr.
Stephen F. Austin State University

Folk Art in Texas. By Francis E. Abernethy. (Southern Methodist University Press, Dallas, TX 75275), 1985. Photographs. Index. P. 203.

What is "folk art?" Francis Edward Abernethy, the editor of this

potpourri of people's art forms supplies a definition: . . . "the art that all people are involved in, the decoration and ornamentation that man puts on himself and on his properties, the unnecessary that he adds to the useful to make the article more pleasing to the eye."

Man (he or she) goes a long way, and down many devious and perplexing channels, to pursue his folk artistic goals. This book documents the paths: he decorates his homes and yards; he half buries ten old Cadillacs in concrete and covers them with graffiti; he paints—Indians on rocks, tattoos on bodies; he pursues the arts of weaving, crocheting, tatting, iron working, whittling, developing baskets from pine needles; he dresses up cowboys with fancy spurs, saddles and hats; and the art of tender care for graves and cemeteries.

It's all here in this sumptuous and well illustrated volume, a publication of the Texas Folklore Society.

William N. Stokes, Jr.
Dallas, Texas

The First Church of Paris. By Francis Arnold Ellis and Skipper Steely. (First United Methodist Church, Paris, TX 75460), 1985. Illustrations. Notes. Index. P. 404. \$20.00.

Local church histories come in all types and qualities. This newly published history of The First United Methodist Church of Paris is one of the better ones. It is well illustrated and is unusually detailed in portraying lay involvement in the ministry of the church as well as presenting the role of its pastors. Mr. Steely is author of Part One and Mrs. Ellis of Part Two, of the account.

The book gives such information regarding the early settlement of Northeast Texas, where Claiborne Wright brought what is considered the first family to settle in Texas in 1816 at old Pecan Point in northeast Red River County. Methodist circuit-rider William Stevenson had preached there the year before. The two men had known each other in Tennessee. The movement spread and a church in Paris was established in the early 1840s. That story is traced in detail to the present day, both the sunshiny days and the cloudy ones.

One especially important feature of the book is that the story of the church is set in the context of surrounding influences: the Great Fire of 1916, Secession (George Wright voted against Secession as a member of the Texas Legislature), and other such events. Mention is made of the role of Senator A. M. Aikin in the Paris church, and of Dr. Louis Williams, president for many years of Paris Junior College. Joe J. Perkins is mentioned because of his and Mrs. Perkins' influence on many Paris preachers through Perkins School of Theology at Dallas.

Mr. Perkins came from Lamar County and likely was influenced in his early life by preachers on the Paris Circuit.

The authors have provided a fine account of a good church—well-researched, well-written, and well-presented.

Walter N. Vernon

Dallas, Texas

The Time It Never Rained. By Elmer Kelton. (Texas Christian University Press, Box 30783, Fort Worth, TX 76129), 1984. P. 377. \$16.95 Cloth; \$9.95 Paper.

The Time It Never Rained is a major contribution to Western American Literature. Texas Christian University deserves whole-hearted thanks for reprinting Kelton's work.

This is a story of the drought of the 1950s and how nature's malevolence scarred the hearts and fortunes in the fictional West Texas ranching community of Rio Seco—just down the road from the "real" town of San Angelo. Charlie Flagg, lovable but cantankerous ranchman, has the good-bad habit of listening to his conscience over the voices of family, friends, and the *federales* who dictate agricultural and immigration policies. Like his grandfather before him, Charlie sees no reason to do things in any way but his own. Aligned with the spirit of "Old Warrior," the Comanche buried on the hill above the ranch, Charlie sees his Brushy Top as having been "an ageless land where the past was still a living thing and old voices still whispered, where the freshness of the pioneer time had not yet all faded, where a few of the old dreams were not yet dark with tarnish."

But the drouth changes more than the landscape. Charlie, moving toward the sunset side of middle age, is forced into a new world where cost accounting becomes the measure of an individual's success or failure. He is forced to see that survival means selling cattle and replacing his sheep with Angora goats. He must give up the help of the Flores family, whose children he has considered his own. He must admit that his son, Tom, has priorities other than the ranch his father is trying to preserve for him. Charlie must deal with a younger generation who steadily challenge accepted traditions of Anglo and Mexican racism. He must suffer the desertion of neighbors and friends and finally becomes accountable to his banker, in this case a decent one, who (as the drouth worsens), assumes greater financial responsibility for the Flagg ranch. Finally, Charlie must confront his own failing health in the long wait for the rain that never comes.

Kelton has condensed a great deal of his own ranching background into the novel. His absolute dedication to bed-rock realism and his fidelity to historic fact move the presentation into the world of art—

art as it sounds through Turgenev's *A Sportsman's Sketches*, Stegner's *Wolf Willow*, or Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*. The narrative is delivered in the flat West Texas vernacular, understated always. The dialogue, folk myths, superstitions, and mannerisms are as true as the portraits of the ranchers who lived and perished by the weight or the clip of their animals. Kelton's style admits no rhetorical devices for the sake of manipulating his audience. The reader is faced with the stark textures of the story—the sights, sounds, smells, touches, and tastes of a seven-year nature-enforced tragedy. Kelton, the fiction writer, enlarges the tradition of Dobie, Webb, and Bedichek.

As I read the book, my own days of helping Otho Bannister with his sheep in Water Valley and running cattle and sheep down the alleys at the Angelo Livestock Auction came alive. The claims of Kelton's friends that Charlie Flagg was modeled on a specific father or grandfather are true. Some years back I sent a copy of the book to a septuagenarian in Loving County who had lived through the terror of those hard days. I can still hear Arthur Burdick and his wife Leola exclaiming, "That's just the way it was! Just the way . . ."

The novel celebrates the best of men, the conscientious caretaker of the land and its animals. Charlie Flagg learns to change, and he is able to offer his own tenets of strength to the generation to follow—especially the courage to listen to and act on one's own conscience.

I agree with Tom Pilkington in his "Afterward" to the novel: "Charlie is one of the most remarkable and memorable characters I have encountered in twentieth-century American fiction." This is a book that deserves to be preserved, remembered, and taught.

Lee Schultz

Stephen F. Austin State University

Tales of the Western Heartland. An Anthology of Cowboy, Scout, Army, Indian, Treasure, and Western True Adventure Stories. By Harry E. Chrisman. (Swallow Press, Ohio University, Scott Quadrangle, Athens, Ohio 45701-2979), 1985. Photographs. P. 178. \$19.95 Cloth; \$9.95 Paper.

Chrisman points out in his foreword that due to the magnitude of the Old West no single account can hope to more than touch on its events and personalities. These seventeen "tales" have as motif the passion of the great plains states. They touch on a few famous but mainly lesser known personalities from the early pathfinder days to the early twentieth century.

Chrisman long ago established the accuracy of his writings, most notably in his I. P. Olive biography. This characteristic is emphasized

still in his efforts to explain or unravel mysteries—both geographical and human. Nature is the villain in "The Devil's Cattle Trap," but as yet no satisfactory explanation has been determined for the geyser-like Nebraska bogs. The chapter dealing with the murderous Bender family may provide as plausible an explanation for their demise as we will ever receive.

The violent-prone personalities do not control the tone of this book. By presenting a balance of humanity's qualities Chrisman presents a truer picture of our heritage. The chapters devoted to George Phippen and S. D. Butcher—artists with an oil brush and a camera respectively—to Ruth Chrisman, a great plains Clara Barton, are as exciting at the human level as those chronicling the violence of the Olive cattlemen or the Johnson-Eldridge feud.

Chuck Parsons
South Wayne, Wisconsin

Tracks on the Land: Stories of Immigrants, Outlaws, Artists, and Other Texans Who Left Their Mark on the Lone Star State. By David C. De Boe and Kenneth B. Ragsdale. (Texas State Historical Association, 2/306 Sid Richardson Hall, Austin, TX 78712), 1985. Photographs. Illustrations. P. 285.

Tracks on the Land is edited by David De Boe and Ken Ragsdale, present and past education directors of the Texas State Historical Association. Part of that job is overseeing activities of Texas Junior Historians, and the editing of the *Texas Historian*. This journal contains writings and research of students from across the state.

The book is a collection of some of the best of these student essays from over the years. Some of these will be of particular interest to the student of East Texas history. Here one finds remembrances of Sacred Harp singings, the pine industry, the New London school disaster, and the Jewish Community in early Jefferson.

Tracks on the Land will be of interest to the general reader of the Texas scene. In addition it can be an excellent tool for the teacher as a supplementary text, for by examining the local community as a historical research laboratory to test textbook generalizations, the student can find history relevant to his own experience. It is also hoped that by reading what other young Texans have written students will be encouraged to research the history of their own communities.

De Boe and Ragsdale are to be saluted for compiling this study of Texas by its young people. It is a fitting celebration for our Sesquicentennial year.

Lincoln King
Gary High School

A Pride of Kin. By Callie Coe Wilson and Ellen Walker Rienstra. (Texas A&M University Press, Box C, College Station, TX 77843), 1985. P. 92. \$12.50.

I am going to overcome my bias on this book, *A Pride of Kin*, and do an objective and professional review. The truth of the matter is that I'm in love with both the authors ("authoresses"!), I am just about as hooked on their Hooks family as they are, and I am partial to anything that has to do with the Big Thicket and the East Texas Piney Woods. Fortunately Callie Coe Wilson and Ellen Walker Rienstra are both fine writers, technically and stylistically, and they handle their clan's stories, a very personal subject, with professional objectivity, so I am easily able to do the same.

Mody Boatright sanctified the family legend as a form of folklore in his essay of the same title in 1958. The family legend, according to Boatright, has little to do with when members were born and died or whom they spawned or what titles they held. Legends are not history; they are the shadows of history, revealing what a family—an integral part of a society—thinks about itself, what it believes in, the values that it holds to be important for survival. And that which promotes the survival of families, promotes the survival of that family's society and culture. The Hookses of Hardin County in the Big Thicket were survivors. They were free-spirited, self-confident settlers of the Piney Woods and the Thicket who made their homes in those woods in 1840s and passed on their genes and attitudes to a horde of Hooks progeny in present-day southeast Texas. The cousins Coe and Rienstra are fit offspring, and they have brought together in *A Pride of Kin* the stories their families has been telling at Sunday dinners, reunions, and funerals for generations. These are great stories, well told, and their themes are the virtues and values that were responsible for the success and survival of settlers on the Texas frontier.

William (Pap) Hooks, along with three brothers, brought his wife Martha and the beginnings of his family to East Texas in 1848 and was soon settled on the edge of the Big Thicket in Hardin County. The stories remembered and told in this family saga begin in the Old World but don't gain elaboration until the family begins its trek to Texas. One of the tales the family is still telling is about Austin Hooks, the perfectionist among the brothers. One of his oxen was drowned at a river crossing and Austin was so disgruntled at having to drive an unmatched team that he killed the remaining ox, burned his wagon, and returned to Georgia. He made it to Texas the following year with a matched team and a matched spare trailing at the tailgate.

The stories about Pap concern a great-bearded man, who for comfort plowed in his shirt-tails, was a charmer of children, and bound his

family to himself and each other with the great love he had for them. He had eight sons who filled various vacuums in Hardin County and left behind stories that have locked them into the family's historical continuity. There was the wild, adventurous Day who went to the War, was captured by Yankees, and came home minus toes lost to frostbite, much sobered. And Lum, who joined the army to keep Day out of trouble but who died of typhus and was buried on that part of the Hooks farm that was to become Hooks cemetery, his being the first grave. There was Buck, who went to Houston to retrieve a horse his son had foolishly given a young lady—who having seen the young lady, was so enchanted he offered her another horse. There was George the inventor and oil driller who was a fiddle maker—and Bud the bear hunter—and Ben, who made three separate fortunes: in whiskey, in lumber, and in the Saratoga oil field, which he started. The stories continue through the family and through the generations till now and give a colorful, humorous, dramatic picture of the people gaining their culture's land by living strongly in it and on it.

One chapter deals with a gunfight between the Hookses and the Humbles on the Woodville square. This story is a family epic, and except for the fact that no one was killed, the battle was as exciting and dramatic as the shootout at the OK Corral. Another chapter deals with hunting. The bear hunt that Teddy Roosevelt had scheduled with Bud and Ben but had to cancel is as well remembered as the hunts the Hookses made in the Thicket with the woodsiest of all woodsmen, Ben Lilly. Gus Hooks, who could outrun a horse and just might have burned down the courthouse at Old Hardin so the county seat would be moved to Kountze, raised a family who furnished grist for the making of more tales.

However well the authors did their part, A&M Press did poorly with the building of the book, and it should have done better by Frank Wardlaw, after whom the series is named. *A Pride of Kin* is a book that requires pictures—pictures of the Big Thicket and Piney Woods setting, pictures of the Hooks Cemetery setting for the opening and the closing of the book, pictures of the people. The authors have sharp, clear, dramatic pictures of all the major characters involved, of Ben's oil fields and Bud's bear hunts and Arden's bee trees. These pictures would have given the book a needed, added dimension and would have pleased readers by prompting their mind's eyes with pictures of real people. Pap did look like a big hairy animal. In his family portrait the bearded patriarch is formally attired in suit coat and white shirt down to his sternum. Below that the coat flairs open, the shirt runs out, and what is left is a broad expanse of flesh punctuated by a prominent belly button. That needs to be seen to be appreciated.

Francis Edward Abernethy, Stephen F. Austin State University

Working the Range. Essays on the History of Western Land Management and the Environment. By John R. Wunder. (Greenwood Press, 88 Post Road West, Box 5007, Westport, Conn. 06881), 1985. Index. P. 241. \$29.95.

This is a difficult book to review, if one is to do justice to twelve separate articles and authors. In the first place, the title is misleading in that it implies that the collection of essays relate to the ranching industry. Indeed, the sub-title is a more appropriate reflection as to what the book is all about, namely land management and the environment. *Working the Range* is divided into four major sections: "Native Americans and Their Lands;" "Land Speculation;" "Land Policy and Entrepreneurship;" and "Environment and Land Management." Each major division contains three essays.

Some of the works read like the seminar papers or thesis chapters that they obviously were originally. Subjects range from a study of land and water rights of the Pueblos of New Mexico to water modification in Texas, and the Town Site Preemption Act of 1944. Willard Rollings does an excellent job in describing the complex land policies of the Spaniards, Mexicans, and Anglo-Americans relative to the Pueblos of New Mexico. He should have been more careful however, in locating the Zuni, Acoma, and Laguna groups along the Western New Mexico and Eastern Arizona boundary instead of two-hundred miles further east near the Pecos River.

Each section discusses the temporal and spatial relationship of Americans to working Western lands. The various essays are based upon solid if mostly secondary sources. The theme or thesis of *Working the Range* could have been more fully developed in the Introduction by the editor.

W. Eugene Hollon
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Texas Tears and Texas Sunshine. Voices of Frontier Women. By Jo Ella Exley. (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843), 1985. Photographs. References. Index. P. 275. \$14.95.

With the coming of Texas' sesquicentennial year there has, happily, been a renewal of interest in Texas history. Fortunately much of this interest is in the contributions of Texas women. *Texas Tears and Texas Sunshine: Voices of Frontier Women* illustrates the benefits to be reaped from such an interest. This is the story of Texas womanhood as told in accounts of the lives of sixteen women. The book covers the period from 1821 to 1905. Each of the four sections has the descriptive name of a quilt—"Log Cabin," "Lone Star," "Texas

Tears," and "Texas Sunshine." The utilization of the quilt motif is effective as this is a story of creation. These women created homes in the wilderness and helped to create a state. Everything is here—emigration, education, religion, amusements, building homes, family life, and the struggles of daily life. Included are the autobiographical accounts of Mary Crownover Rabb, Mary Helm, Dilue Rose Harris, Rachel Parker Plummer, Silvia King, and Amelia Edith Huddleston Barr. The accounts of their lives provide a fascinating insight into the existence of these women and more than a glimpse of frontier life. There are photographs and a fine listing of references.

Texas Tears and Texas Sunshine is an important contribution to the study of womanhood in Texas. It is interesting, enjoyable, and highly recommended reading.

Vista Kay McCroskey
Fort Worth, Texas

Black Leaders. Texans for Their Times. Alwyn Barr and Robert A. Calvert, editors. (Texas State Historical Association, 2/306 Sid Richardson Hall, Austin, TX 78712), 1985. Photographs. Index. P. 237. \$18.95 Cloth; \$9.95 Paper.

This collection of biographical essays describes the lives of eight black Texans who sought social change either in their own individual circumstances or in the condition of their ethnic group. In the editors' formula for leadership, the individual achiever without an ethnic constituency is accorded the same status as the group leader with an ethnic constituency. Lacking noble motive, exceptional achievement or significant constituency, Dave, who resists his captive condition only because he prefers urban to rural life, is a dubious selection. His contemporary, William Goyens of Nacogdoches County, a free black and one of the richest landowners in Texas, can best be understood as a leader in the white community. The remaining biographees developed significant black constituencies—political leaders Matthew Gaines of Brenham and Bill McDonald of Fort Worth; college president W. R. Banks and Mary Branch; Heman Sweatt, the plaintiff in the monumental University of Texas desegregation lawsuit; and Dr. John Biggers, internationally-acclaimed visual artist. This provocative study is an important contribution to Texas history and biography.

Melvin Wade
The University of Texas at Austin

The Cowboy Chronicles: A Sportswriter's View of America's Most Celebrated Team. By Carlton Stowers. (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 23066, Austin, TX 78767), 1984. Photographs. Index. P. 256. \$9.95.

Having been a Dallas Cowboys' fan for twenty years, it is difficult to dislike almost any book concerning the team. Carlton Stower's *The Cowboy Chronicles*, is no exception. In spite of its title, the reader is advised in the Foreward, written by Steve Perkins, editor of the Dallas Cowboys Weekly, that this is not a history of the Dallas franchise. Instead, Stowers explains that his book is a collection of some of his magazine and newspaper articles done on major events and the personnel of the team. He states that his purpose is to enable the reader to have on hand a convenient collection of such articles.

No *North Dallas Forty*, *The Cowboy Chronicles* will offend no one, nor does it present heretofore unknown facts concerning the Cowboys' organization. It is exactly what it says it is, a series of short, upbeat articles, written with the periodical's audience in mind.

The thirty-six articles presented are arranged in no particular ranking or chronological order, and they vary in subject from players to management notables to the famed cheerleaders. Of particular interest to Cowboys' fans may be the article on the team's low-profile former owner, Clint Muchison, Jr., and his quest for a Dallas-based National Football League team. Each article contains some message that might, along with the book's popular subject, recommend it for inclusion in high school libraries.

The reader must keep in mind that this book is not a modern report on the team because some articles date to the mid-seventies. This is a positive statement about the people that make up the Cowboys' organization, and the reader may find a few hours of pleasant, light reading.

Steve Lindsey
Mineola, Texas

Storm in the Mountains. Thomas' Confederate Legion of Cherokee Indians and Mountaineers. By Vernon Crow. (Press of the Museum of the Cherokee Indians, P.O. Box 770-A, Cherokee, NC 28719), 1982. Photographs. Maps. Appendices. Notes. Bibliography. Index. P. 275. \$14.95.

The purpose of this work is to chronicle a unique unit of Confederate soldiers who have received virtually no scholarly attention. The author accomplished this task with excellent results, and more. The reader not only learns the military record of the Legion, but is exposed to a corner of the Confederacy, eastern Tennessee and western North

Carolina, where pro-Union men were the most daring. The Legion faced the awesome task of keeping Federal soldiers out as well as trying to maintain the peace where murders and ambushes were more common than battles. Crow made good use of the wealth of unpublished material by weaving it into the narrative to produce an exciting history that does not "over glorify" his subject, but presents an honest account of young men at war. *Storm in the Mountains* reserves a special place in every Civil War library.

David V. Stroud
Kilgore College

Rebels on the Rio Grande. The Civil War Journal of A. B. Peticolas.
Edited by Don E. Alberts. (The University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, NM 87131), 1984. Photographs. Maps. Illustrations. Bibliography. Index. P. 187. \$19.95 Cloth; \$9.95 Paper.

General Henry Hopkins Sibley's New Mexico Campaign of 1862 has been the subject of specialized studies by Martin H. Hall and Robert L. Kerby. The best personal account by a soldier in the Confederate "Army of New Mexico" was kept by Sergeant Alfred Brown Peticolas of the "Victoria Invincibles," Company C of the Fourth Regiment of Texas Mounted Volunteers. Unfortunately, the first of Peticolas's three journals, which covered the recruitment and training of Sibley's Brigade in San Antonio and the march across West Texas to Fort Bliss and into New Mexico, was lost when the Texan wagon train was destroyed by Union forces during the Battle of Glorieta.

The second journal, ably edited by Don E. Alberts, begins on February 21, 1862, the day of the Battle of Valverde, and ends with the weary Sibley Brigade marching back to San Antonio on June 15, 1862. Peticolas's pencil sketches made during the campaign complement the text. The third journal deals with his subsequent service in Louisiana and Texas. It is not included in this volume.

Norman D. Brown
The University of Texas at Austin

Wildcatters. Texas Independent Oilmen. By Roger M. Olien and Diana Davids Olien. (Texas Monthly Press, P.O. Box 1569, Austin, TX 78767), 1984. Photographs. Notes. Glossary. Index. P. 234. \$16.95.

In this interesting and well-researched study the authors use the West Texas-Permian Basin field as a background for an examination of the role of independent oilmen in an industry dominated by major firms. Contrary to generally held views, the authors indicate that a

high degree of cooperation usually existed between independents and major oil companies. During the 1930s both groups, seeing an obvious mutuality of interest in price stability, welcomed governmental regulation of production. But, declining oil prices, as has happened in the lean times of the present, brought different and heated views between the two groups concerning imported oil and environmental and tax policies.

Meanwhile, the image and stature of the "wildcatter" changed. Those who survived over the long pull usually were not the flamboyant, wheeler-dealer types but responsible, serious professionals, often with academic backgrounds in petroleum engineering or geology.

The authors have used an impressive number of sources, particularly some seventy-plus interviews with oilmen who participated in the development of the West Texas field. At a time when publishing costs render such comments largely niggling, the book's usefulness could be enhanced for the general reader with maps and for the researcher with a more detailed index.

John O. King

University of Houston, University Park

Red Scare, Right-Wing Hysteria, Fifties Fanaticism and Their Legacy in Texas. By Don E. Carleton. (Texas Monthly Press, P.O. Box 1569, Austin, TX 78767), 1985. Photographs. Notes. Index. P. 390. \$18.95.

Don Carleton has written a superb book about the extreme right in Houston in the 1950s. To a lesser extent the book examines right wing politics in Texas and the nation. It is Carleton's thesis that such right wing activities as banning speakers, firing teachers and administrators, and recording teachers' lectures to insure their ideological purity were encouraged by the Houston Establishment. Until Oveta Hobby came under attack, the *Houston Post* was friendly to Red Scare tactics. Such leaders as Hugh Roy Cullen, Jesse Jones, and other "8F Crowd" leaders used the Red Scare to win elections and fight New Dealism and labor unions.

Carleton's treatment of Hugh Roy Cullen's role in the Red Scare is impressive. This incredibly wealthy man was no mere manipulator of public opinion; he was a true believer, a man willing to commit his wealth to fighting what he believed were the evils of communism and liberalism. His role on the Board of Regents of the University of Houston and his role as the major donor to the University made him a pivotal figure in the Red Scare's struggle against academic freedom. Similarly, the role of the *Houston Chronicle* and the *Houston Post* in beating the

drums for the Red Scare is also stressed. Most interesting of all is Carleton's treatment of the band of middle-and-upper-class housewives—the Minutewomen—who were the footsoldiers of the Red Scare.

This book is not just a good one, it is outstanding. It is well-researched, well-written, and not only fascinating but of major historical value.

Anthony Champagne
The University of Texas at Dallas

Computer Genealogy. A Guide to Research Through High Technology. By Paul A. Andereck and Richard A. Pence. (Ancestry Publishing, P.O. Box 476, Salt Lake City, Utah 84110), 1985. Illustrations. Index. P. 280. \$12.95.

Paul Andereck is well qualified to discuss computer genealogy. Andereck is the editor of a magazine entitled "Genealogical Computing" which is now four years old. Genealogy is the third most popular hobby in America today and it is only natural that genealogists would turn to the computer to aid them in their research and record keeping.

This volume is written for those who are considering the purchase of computer software for their genealogical research. Andereck explains various types of software in terms that a novice can understand. If you don't know a "bit" from a "byte," there is a glossary of terms in the back of the book to help you understand the terminology.

Examples of various charts and group sheets produced by several software packages are illustrated. A genealogy programs directory is included. The name of the software is given, as well as the type of computer it functions with, the cost and address where this product may be purchased.

Reasons for using the computer are given with an explanation of computer software and what it can do for you. One chapter gives a step-by-step explanation of "Family Roots" and how it can help organize your data.

Anyone who is considering the purchase of computer software to help with their genealogical research would benefit from *Computer Genealogy*.

Carolyn Ericson
Nacogdoches, Texas

Water in the Hispanic Southwest. By Michael C. Meyer. (University of Arizona Press, Tucson, AZ), 1984. Maps. Photographs. Notes. Bibliography. Index. P. 189.

Water in the Hispanic Southwest is a well researched volume examining the ways that water—or more accurately the lack of water—affected the legal, social, economic, and military aspects of New Spain. As the weapon in the battle against aridity, water “actuated and dominated an amazing variety of social and economic relationships . . . dictated growth patterns, precipitated conflict, influenced the form of governmental institutions, and helped define how different social and ethnic groups related to each other.” (p. 8)

The first half of the book is given over to detailing these influences. Meyer discusses the effect of water on the location and construction of towns, on land ownership patterns, and on military tactics.

The most interesting chapter in this first half, however, is on “Water and Social Conflict.” Meyer reminds us that land disputes in the Southwest were almost always contentions over water, a fact often not realized in historical literature. It is interesting to note that conflict arose not from population increases but rather from economic and demographic changes—concentration in cities, private land ownership, the domestication of animals, and mining. The initial conflicts over water quality in the New World are also noted.

The second half of the book deals with water law and will be of particular interest to legal scholars and water rights lawyers. It includes evidence of thorough archival research from commentaries, decrees, and cases on the categorization of land grants and on the acquisition of water rights. The final chapter on adjudication of disputes emphasizes the balancing between legal right and common good that was part of New Spain’s legal system.

Throughout, Meyer focuses on water as an instrument of domination in the conflict between cultures—an insightful perspective. This is balanced with the statement that social equity was not always cavalierly ignored, and he also resists the temptation to ascribe all social tension to drought. Ultimately, the value of the book is in its pointing out the extent to which aridity and the process of coping with it helped shape Spanish colonial society as much as some of the influences that come more immediately to mind.

Steve Stagner
Texas Water Alliance

Spanish Sea. The Gulf of Mexico in North American Discovery, 1500-1685. By Robert S. Weddle. (Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843), 1985. Maps. Photographs. Glossary. Bibliography. Index. P. 457. \$34.50.

Robert Weddle feels that the Age of Discovery and Exploration has not been completely or accurately chronicled. This book, he hopes, will prompt further examination of a neglected subject.

The author maintains that previous misunderstandings and geographical errors. These he attributes to ignorance of the perils of navigating uncharted coasts and a too-literal interpretation of primitive maps and estimates of direction and position. Also, Weddle feels that state and local writers (especially Texans and Floridians) often ignore or distort developments in other parts of the Gulf. Finally, he points to confusion caused by "migrating" place-names.

Weddle offers an overview of activity in the entire Gulf, seeking a unity missing in previous accounts of exploration in the "Spanish Sea." Further, he asserts that it is these explorations, rather than events on the Atlantic coast, which mark the natural starting-place for the study of U. S. history.

This book will interest general readers as well as specialists (on whose toes Weddle occasionally treads). The work contains many stirring accounts of bravery and hardship, and Weddle's argument that the history of Gulf explorations is both incomplete and inaccurate deserves serious consideration.

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